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# DUXBURY REPORTER

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## Friends remember Fortini

### Duxbury grad killed in auto accident

By GateHouse News Service

When Paul Fortini put his instrument down, he had a smile on his face and a helping hand for younger musicians.

Fortini, 19, a Duxbury High School graduate and New York University sophomore, died Sept. 19 after being hit by two cars as he walked across a busy highway in Brooklyn.

Friends and teachers from Duxbury High say he was an intense, tenacious and caring person who went after what he wanted and always laughed, joked and smiled.

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Cassie Shayne

School senior Cassie Shayne, 17. "He always wanted to be the best he could be. He, kind of, didn't let outside things affect that."

New York City police said Fortini was crossing the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway shortly before midnight when he was hit by a car that didn't stop. He was then hit by a second vehicle, which stopped.

The NYU newspaper, the Washington Square News, reported that members of Fortini's fraternity spent much of Friday evening and Saturday morning searching for him before learning that he had been killed.

Fortini's parents, Kathy and Ken Fortini, flew to New York after learning that their son was missing, the newspaper said.

During the past few days, dozens of family members and friends have posted remembrances of Fortini on the social networking Web site Facebook and several NYU Web sites, NYU Local and the Washington Square News.

"He was a great kid," said Jill Noerenberg, a music teacher at Duxbury High School. "He was just

that kind of kid that always had a smile on his face and was always happy."

Shayne, who created a Facebook page in Fortini's memory, described him as good listener and "a completely genuine human being."

"He never made fun of anyone," Shayne said. "When he said something nice, he really meant it. He would just have incredible insight on anything."

Noerenberg said Fortini started studying trumpet in fifth grade. By the time he finished high school, she said he was one of the best players she had taught.

At Duxbury High, Fortini was a member of the wind ensemble, the jazz band and a men's a capella group.

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He was also involved in the drama program and was a member of the National Honor Society. He was an East Asian Studies major at NYU.

Fortini taught younger students in an after school Duxbury music program and got an award for being an outstanding teacher and mentor, Noerenberg said.

Shayne, who knew Fortini from the high school drama program, said his compassion and guidance also reached to the stage.

"I think we're all pretty much just shocked and devastated," she said. "I think we all kind of realize that nothing can be done and that we can only remember him for the amazing, perfect, human being he was."

Duxbury school music teacher Ric Madru said struggling to become a good trumpet player at an early age helped

Fortini become a better teacher.

Madru said his class paused for a few minutes on Monday to talk about Fortini. He said current and former Duxbury High School musicians will play at Fortini's funeral and at a gathering afterward.

"It's been a struggle here," he said. "He was such an intense kid; everything had to be perfect, but he wanted to laugh while he was doing it."

Besides his parents, Fortini leaves two sisters, Lisa Fortini of Somerville and Kristina Fortini of London, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Visiting hours were scheduled for Sept. 25 at the Shepherd Funeral Home in Kingston. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at Holy Family Church in Duxbury. Burial will follow at Duxbury's Mayflower Cemetery.